



## Advisory Announcement

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### 2021 POINT GARDNER AND KINGSMILL TEST FISHERIES UPDATE # 5

Point Gardner and Kingsmill test fisheries are ongoing projects that assess pink and chum salmon abundance returning to Section 9-B and District 10. Test fishing at Point Gardner occurs one day per week for five weeks starting in statistical week 26 (June 20 – 26). However, the test fishery start was delayed one week for the 2021 season and began statistical week 27 (June 27 – July 3). The Point Gardner test fishery has proven to be a very good indicator for pink salmon returning to Frederick Sound and lower Stephens Passage, particularly to District 10. The Kingsmill test fishery occurs one day per week for four weeks starting in statistical week 27 (June 27 – July 3). However, the test fishery start was delayed one week for the 2021 season and began statistical week 28 (July 4 – July 10). The Kingsmill test fishery is used as an indicator for runs returning to Frederick Sound and to eastern lower Chatham Straits (Section 9-B and District 10). Results from the Kingsmill test fishery are generally less conclusive since the test fishery will catch fish heading north to Frederick Sound and south to Rowan and Tebenkof Bays.

This year the *F/V St. Janet* was conducting both test fisheries.

**Point Gardner:** The fifth and final test fishery for 2021 was conducted on Monday, July 26. All seven scheduled sets were completed. The average number of pink salmon caught per set was 289 compared to the 2011–2020 average of 927 pink salmon per set for SW 31. The average number of chum salmon caught per set was 28 compared to the 2011–2020 average of 79 chum salmon per set for SW 31. Pink salmon sex ratios were 64% male. Chum salmon sex ratios were not available.

**Kingsmill:** The fourth and final test fishery for 2021 was conducted on Tuesday, July 27. All seven scheduled sets were completed. The average number of pink salmon caught per set was 569 compared to the 2011–2020 average of 1,055 pink salmon per set for SW 31. The average number of chum salmon per set was 10 compared to the 2011–2020 average of 62 chum salmon per set for SW 31. Pink salmon sex ratios were 68% male. Chum salmon sex ratios were not available.

**Run Strength:** In SW 31, Point Gardner and Kingsmill harvest rates were below average for pink and chum salmon. The harvest rates of pink and chum salmon reflect a decrease in abundance in both areas compared to SW 30.

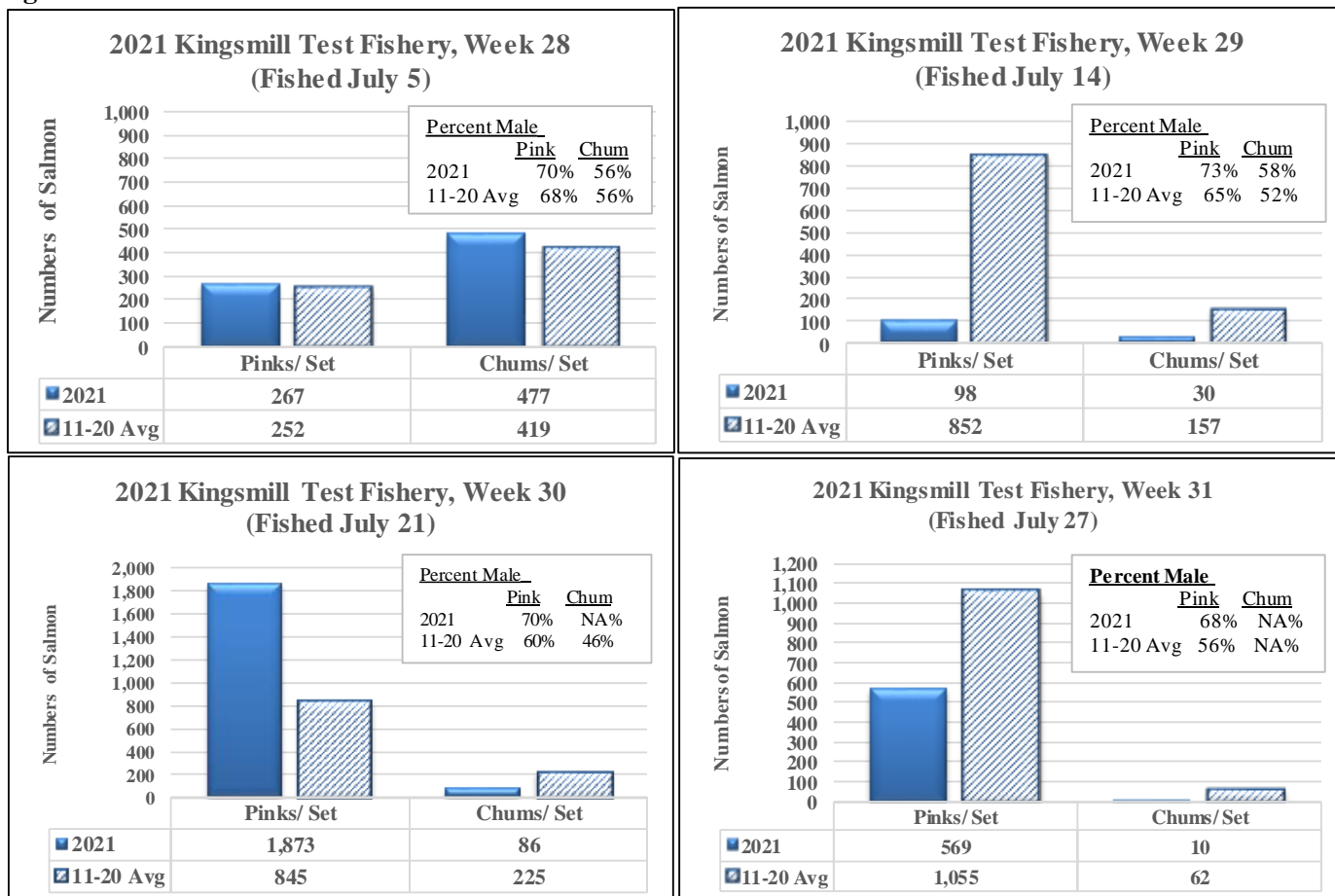
**Sex Ratio Sampling:** Sex ratio sampling is used as a tool in determining run timing. Numbers of males are higher during the beginning of the run and females are more numerous during the latter part of the run. Comparing this year's sex ratios to the historical average provides an indication of whether the run is earlier, later, or similar in run timing to previous years. If the sex ratios were representative, the Point Gardner and Kingsmill test fishery results imply a later than normal pink salmon run timing. Chum salmon sex ratios were not collected this week and run timing is inconclusive.

#### Average Weights:

- Point Gardner: pink salmon: 3.4 pounds; chum salmon: 5.5 pounds.
- Kingsmill: pink salmon: 2.9 pounds; chum salmon: 5.3 pounds.

**Next Test Fisheries:** Both test fisheries have concluded for the 2021 season.

**Point Gardner:**

**Kingsmill:**

Advisory Announcement web site: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>.

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